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# Renaud Named Chief in Northern California City

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# Renaud Named Chief in Northern California City

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When she recounts the benefits of attending the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security, Cynthia Renaud cites leadership and critical thinking skills.

She will have the opportunity to apply those traits as she begins work as the chief of the Folsom (Calif.) Police Department. Renaud was appointed to the job May 2, 2011, and will take the reins at the department after serving almost two decades with the Long Beach (Calif.) Police Department.

"When I looked at this department, I saw a great group of people who are dedicated to the work they do," Renaud said. "I felt at home right away."

Renaud will oversee a department with more than 100 personnel in a 72,000-population city that lies about 20 miles east of the state capitol, Sacramento.

She earned a master's degree in September 2010 from the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security (CHDS), winning the Thesis Award for her research titled Making Sense in the Edge of Chaos: A Framework for Effective Initial Response." Among the benefits of a CHDS education is the emphasis on leadership, something she said would serve her well in the new job.



"CHDS taught me to be a thinking practitioner," Renaud said by phone. "It taught me to consider all aspects of a situation. It taught me to look a little farther than the end of my nose."

The city boasts some critical infrastructure assets nearby such as the Folsom Dam, a 300-foot high electricity producing structure that forms Folsom Lake. The California Independent System Operator (ISO), which manages the flow of electricity on the state's power grid, is also located within Folsom.

A CHDS concept she plans to explore is public-private partnerships with businesses in the city. Folsom boasts major employers such as Intel Corp., Verizon and Kaiser Permanente.

"I have learned how each one of those employers can contribute to homeland security," she said.

When it comes to pure crime fighting, Renaud said the crime in Folsom are not any different than in most parts of the state, with property crime apparently the most noticeable. She has already sat in on staff meetings with some divisions prior to beginning the job.

"What I heard were issues we talk about here in Long Beach," Renaud said.

Renaud began her law enforcement career with the Long Beach Police Department as an officer and progressed to the rank of commander. Most recently, she was in charge of the East Long Beach Patrol Division.

Making the move to Folsom is beneficial on two levels. She liked the area for her 9-year-old daughter and the position was a great career opportunity.

"I think for everybody, there are two halves to your life – your personal and your professional life," Renaud said. "This job brings those together for me."

Renaud will be the first female police chief in the city, though she downplays the gender aspect. In announcing the

hire, Folsom City Manager Kerry Miller noted that her supervisors and peers had commended her.

"She is a team-oriented consensus builder and problem solver who earned the respect of all," Miller said. "Many remarked on her intelligence, decisiveness and responsiveness to the community."

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